

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between the title and the first line of the specification, insert the following heading:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Page 1, prior to the paragraph commencing “This invention is concerned with transmission of data...”, insert the following heading and sub-heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

Page 1, paragraph 2:

This invention is concerned with transmission of data from a sending station to a receiving terminal. More particularly, it envisages transmission over a telecommunications network where the transmitted bit-rate that the network can support is initially undetermined. [This]

2. Related Art

The situation addressed can arise, for example, when the rate fluctuates owing to the use of a congestion control mechanism. For example, the TCP/IP system uses IP (Internal Protocol) for transport. This is a connectionless service and simply transports transmitted packets to a destination. TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) is an overlay

to this service and brings in the idea of a connection; the sending station transmits a packet and waits for an acknowledgement from the receiving terminal before transmitting another (or in the event of no acknowledgement within a timeout period, it retransmits the packet). More importantly (in the present context) it embodies a congestion control algorithm where it begins with a small packet size and progressively increases the packet size until packet loss occurs, whereupon it reduces the size again. After this initial “slow start” phase, the algorithm continues to increase the packet size (albeit more gradually) backing off whenever packet loss occurs; necessarily this involves some cyclic variation of the packet size. A description of TCP is to be found in “Computer Networks”, by Andrew S. Tanenbaum, third edition, 1996, pp. 521 - 542.

Page 2, before first paragraph, insert the following heading:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, line 16:

Other aspects of the invention are defined in the claims.

Page 2, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 2, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Page 8, first line:

~~Claims~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: